

Or Zarua

TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5770

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 22:5

JULY/AUGUST 2010

OZ Hebrew School Students on Radio Show

Participate in the recording of “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” on Sirius XM Satellite Radio



PHOTO BY SIRIUS XM SATELLITE RADIO: SIRIUS XM STARS

OZ Hebrew School students were guests on “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” at Sirius XM Satellite Radio’s studios in Midtown, along with Music Teacher Rob Silverbush, Shalom Sesame Executive Producer Danny Labin, Rabbi Harlan Wechsler, and Principal Ilana Burgess.

Twenty-four Congregation Or Zarua Hebrew School students traveled to the recording studios of Sirius XM Satellite Radio on Monday, May 17, accompanied by Ilana Burgess, the school principal, and Rob Silverbush, their music teacher. There they met up with Rabbi Wechsler and Danny Labin, executive producer of *Shalom Sesame*, the Jewish version of *Sesame Street*, to participate in the recording of the weekly Sunday radio broadcast of “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches,” which aired on Sunday, May 30.

The “family content” was specifically targeted for the Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend as people all over America would be in their cars and have a chance to listen to Sirius XM.

This May 30 segment of “Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” focused on the educa-

tion of children. In the first part of the program, Rabbi Wechsler spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day. He then interviewed Mr. Labin to explore his thoughts on education and children. Following the interview, Rob Silverbush led the student group in singing Hebrew songs.

Next the children had an opportunity to pose questions to Rabbi Wechsler during a round of “Ask The Rabbi.” He was able to tell the story of the Italian Torah that is under Or Zarua’s care, which was used during World War II and traveled with American troops in the European theater. The Torah was then under the care of an Army Air Force clergyman who also happened to be a parachutist. You can imagine the rest of the story!

Ilana discussed the unique role played by a Hebrew School education in the life of Jewish children. Ilana told a story about

a giant who banished the neighborhood children from his beautiful garden. When the children stopped coming to play in the garden, all the plants wilted and the garden died. Rabbi Wechsler asked the students what they learned from the story and Or Zarua’s clever students answered that:

Kids bring things to life.

Children are the future,

Children give happiness to the world.

The students of Or Zarua’s Hebrew School were very impressed by this special event and thank everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

“Rabbi Wechsler Teaches” can be heard on Sundays at 3:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sirius channel 102 and XM channel 155. Sirius can be accessed with a free, three-day internet trial by pasting the following link in your browser: <http://www.sirius.com/3forfree>.

ק"ק אור זרוע

Congregation

OrZarua

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028

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www.orzarua.org

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OZ Committee Chairs

ADMINISTRATION	<i>Diane Okrent</i>
ART GALLERY	<i>Bobbi Collier</i>
AESTHETICS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
BOOK DISCUSSION	<i>Reed Schneider</i>
BUILDING	<i>Benjamin Marcus</i>
CEMETERY	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i> <i>Mort Schwartz</i>
HESED	<i>Stephanie Failla</i>
HEVRA KADISHA	<i>Vera Silver</i> <i>Gerry Solomon</i>
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ISRAEL	<i>Aliza Kaplan</i>
LIBRARY	<i>Barry Feldman</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Michael Schwartz</i>
MINYAN	<i>Sheldon Adler</i>
PROGRAMMING	<i>Sara Stone</i>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<i>Aaron Shelden</i>
PURIM SPIEL	<i>Arthur Rosenbloom</i> <i>Bonnie Maslin</i> <i>Tibor Feldman</i> <i>Barbara Sassoon</i>
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TORAH/HAFTARAH	<i>Yaakov Shechter</i>
WEBMASTER	<i>Jay Palmer</i>

If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

Database Update Alert

by Harvey Brenner, FTA, Executive Director

Over the next few weeks, we will be updating our membership database. Some of our records are old and inaccurate and, as we move towards more electronic communication, we want to "clean up" each member's information. Items like email addresses will become increasingly important as most of our communication will become internet-based. This will not only help the environment (as we produce less paper mailers, flyers, etc.) but will also save us considerable dollars in printing and mailing costs.

To this end, we have mailed each membership unit (one per household) a tri-fold Survey Update Form. Each form is "household specific" and displays all the relevant information we have about your membership unit in our electronic files. Names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, anniversary, b'nai mitzvah, yahrzeits, etc. are shown as they now appear in our records. Please make sure

you received your copy; if you haven't, call the office immediately for a replacement.

We ask you to review all the information for accuracy and completeness. If it is correct, check the appropriate box (No Changes Needed) and return the form to us. If, however, changes are necessary, please update the information in the spaces provided and return the form to us. For ease of reply, the form becomes a "self-mailer" and you may mail, fax, scan or email the form back to us, whichever is your preference. A return rate of 100% is our goal as we hope to make our records as accurate as possible. If your form is not received by the due date, we will assume our records to be correct and will not make any additions or corrections to your account.

Just as this is a census year, so too is it a year when we can update our membership records. Your help in this regard is not just appreciated, but required. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Introducing Anna Raichman

New Or Zarua Hebrew School Teacher



Anna Raichman

Or Zarua's Hebrew School welcomes Anna Raichman, who will be teaching our Friday class for toddlers. Anna is an accomplished music and dance teacher. An Israeli, she will be continuing her music studies in New York. Anna will be teaching OZ toddlers songs and prayers for Shabbat and holidays. She will also be introducing the children to the weekly Torah portion through presentations, stories, discussions and art. We look forward to an exciting year for our toddlers.

IN APPRECIATION The Youth Education Department of Congregation Or Zarua would like to thank Laurie Dien and Alan Yaillen for creating and organizing our popular Teen-Led Services program.

Or Zarua Youth Education Department

Year-End Summary

The Or Zarua Hebrew School concluded a fabulous year filled with educational activities ranging from programs to help feed the hungry to participating in Rabbi Wechsler's radio show. Below are several of Or Zarua's Hebrew School classes in front of a mural depicting Jerusalem which they created for a seventh-floor classroom. Next year the students will decorate other synagogue classrooms with more murals.

Over the summer, we will be getting ready for the next school year. The Hebrew

School will continue with its mission of educating young people in the Or Zarua community. As always, the special High Holidays service for children will be held at Ramaz. We will be building on the success of our Teen-Led Services and the Junior Congregation; sometimes we will be combining those events. We plan to expand the opportunities for children to participate in the Junior Congregation to including larger numbers of younger children. Or Zarua's youth groups, Kadima and USY, will be starting the year with a

new format to give the kids greater control over planning and organizing the events.

If you or anyone you know is interested in the Or Zarua Hebrew School, youth services on Shabbat, or USY and Kadima programs, please contact me at 212-452-2310, extension 15, or email iburgess@orzarua.org.

We wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing all the familiar faces as well as greeting many new families next fall.

—ILANA BURGESS



Clockwise from top left: Yael Goren's sixth grade class, the third and fourth grades with Tamar Kornblum, a substitute teacher, Sheila Lewis' second grade class, and Ilana Borzak's fifth grade class pose in front of a mural depicting Jerusalem which the students created for a seventh-floor classroom.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION Please note that this will be the last hard copy of the *Or Zarua Newsletter* you will receive unless you have instructed the office otherwise by sending in your completed Survey Update Form. Future issues will be delivered via email. Please contact the OZ office if you have any questions or concerns. —CHARLIE SPIELHOLZ

Or Zarua's 21st Annual Meeting

A Photographic Review

Festivities at Or Zarua's 2010 Annual Meeting included reports, socializing, and entertainment by the Or Zarua Klezmer Band



PHOTOS BY HARVEY BRENNER

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PHOTOS BY HARVEY BRENNER





127 East 82nd Street
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July 2010 • Tammuz / Av 5770

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 • 19 7:15 am Minyan	2 • 20 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 pm Candlelighting	3 • 21 9:00 am Shaharit Pinhas
4 • 22 Independence Day 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	5 • 23 8:45 am Minyan Office closed	6 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	7 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	8 • 26 7:15 am Minyan	9 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 8:11 pm Candlelighting	10 • 28 9:00 am Shaharit Mattot-Mase
11 • 29 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	12 • 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av 7:00 am Minyan	13 • 2 7:15 am Minyan	14 • 3 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 4 7:15 am Minyan	16 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 8:08 pm Candlelighting	17 • 6 Shabbat Hazon 9:00 am Shaharit Devarim
18 • 7 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	19 • 8 Erev Tishe'ah B'Av 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Reading of Eikha	20 • 9 Tishe'ah B'Av 7:15 am Minyan 7:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv	21 • 10 7:15 am Minyan	22 • 11 7:15 am Minyan	23 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 8:03 pm Candlelighting	24 • 13 Shabbat Nahamu 9:00 am Shaharit Va'ethanan
25 • 14 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	26 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	27 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	28 • 17 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	30 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 6:45 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:56 pm Candlelighting	31 • 20 9:00 am Shaharit Ekev



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August 2010 • Av/Elul 5770

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 • 21 Av 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	2 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	3 • 23 7:15 am Minyan	4 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	5 • 25 7:15 am Minyan	6 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:49 pm Candlelighting	7 • 27 9:00 am Shaharit Re'eh
8 • 28 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	9 • 29 7:15 am Minyan	10 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Elul I 7:00 am Minyan	11 • 1 Elul Rosh Hodesh Elul II 7:00 am Minyan	12 • 2 7:15 am Minyan	13 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:40 pm Candlelighting	14 • 4 9:00 am Shaharit Shofetim
15 • 5 9:00 am Sunday Minyan	16 • 6 7:15 am Minyan	17 • 7 7:15 am Minyan	18 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	19 • 9 7:15 am Minyan	20 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Candlelighting	21 • 11 9:00 am Shaharit Kee Tetze
22 • 12 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	23 • 13 7:15 am Minyan	24 • 14 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 15 7:15 am Minyan	26 • 16 7:15 am Minyan	27 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:19 pm Candlelighting	28 • 18 9:00 am Shaharit Kee Tavvo
29 • 19 8:45 am Sunday Minyan	30 • 20 7:15 am Minyan	31 • 21 7:15 am Minyan				

Synaplex 2010 Memories

Planning for a wonderful new year of programs is underway

Or Zarua's Program Committee ended the year with Synaplex 2010, an all-day cornucopia of activities which attracted OZ regulars as well as many people who were curious about all the adventures in our very busy building. Events of the day ranged from the academic, such as Marc Ashley's class, "We Are But of Yesterday: Yosef Yerushalmi on Jewish History, Memory and Meaning," and Rabbi Wechsler's Talmud class, to current Jewish culture and politics with Norman Podhoretz discussing his new book, "Why Are Jews Liberals?"

Activities for children included the Little Maestros; Small Wonder puppet show; the Story Pirates; mural painting in a Hebrew School classroom; and challah bread baking. For parents, Sarah Klagsbrun presented tips on how to deal with everyday issues in child rearing. The day's grand finale was instruction for all in Israeli dancing by Shalhevet, the Israeli dance troupe from Columbia/Barnard/JTS. The troupe then performed a series of dances for an enthusiastic audience.

The following programs have been confirmed for next year:

Saturday, September 2: Sinful Desserts and Selihot Study with Rabbi Wechsler.

Tuesday, September 14: Evening of Study with Rabbi David Silber.

Wednesday, September 22*: Dinner in the Or Zarua Sukkah (*RSVP required*).

Friday, September 24: Bring your own dinner to the OZ Sukkah.

Saturday, October 2: Welcome to New Members and Art Opening Kiddush Lunch.

Wednesday, October 20: Screening of *The Monster Among Us*, a film highlighting the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, with producer Allen Mondell, followed by a panel discussion.

Thursday, November 4*: Special Tour of The Jewish Museum exhibit, "Houdini: Art and Magic" with curator and OZ congregant Brooke Rappaport (*Attendance is limited*).

Friday, November 12*: Family and Friends Shabbat Dinner (*RSVP required*).



Friday-Sunday, December 4-6*: A musical Hanukkah Shabbaton with Pizmon, an a cappella group from Columbia/Barnard/JTS (*RSVP required for dinner and lunch*).

**The asterisk indicates there will be a nominal fee associated with the event.*

Planning for the rest of the year includes OZ's birthday celebration, the Lucy S. Dawidowicz lecture, the Super Bowl party, another Shabbaton, the Purim



Spiel, Second Night Seder, and the Shavuot panel discussion. Rabbi Wechsler's Talmud class, the graduate Me'ah program and the OZ Book Club will also be offered again next year.

The Program Committee is looking forward to another year of many stimulating programs designed to appeal to the entire congregation. If you have any ideas for a program, please contact Harvey Brenner in the OZ office.

—SARA STONE

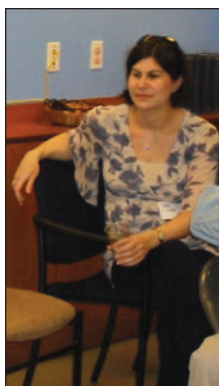
PHOTOS BY HARVEY BRENNER AND ALAN VALLEN

Synaplex 2010 Memories

Scenes from the all-day cornucopia of events on Lag B'Omer, Sunday, May 2



PHOTOS BY HARVEY BRENNER AND ALAN YALLEN



Nobody Likes to Think About Dying

The wisdom of pre-planning and pre-paying funeral and burial costs

Nobody likes to think (much less talk) about dying. Yet it is an inexorable part of living. As you are aware, Or Zarua is blessed with an active and compassionate volunteer group known as Hevra Kadisha (literally, Holy Friends), who assist and perform many of the proscribed final rites for the deceased and the family.

One thing they cannot do is help a family plan for this eventuality. Nowadays, many families have the forethought and inclination to pre-plan and pre-pay their funeral and burial costs, thereby eliminating those decisions from the surviving family members at a time that is already extremely stressful.

Or Zarua had the foresight nearly five years ago to purchase and develop a beautiful memorial park for its members and families at Beth El Cemetery, Washington, New Jersey, about 10 miles from of the George Washington Bridge (right near Paramus). The property is now fully landscaped as befits the aesthetics of our building and the values of Congregation Or Zarua members. Walkways and shrubbery beautify the grounds and offer a serene, tranquil final resting place for our loved ones. Each family may select their own headstone(s) with all graves uniformly covered with grass.

Many members took advantage of the initial offering in October 2006 by purchasing gravesites for themselves and other family members, but there are still many sites available. The Or Zarua member price is \$1,400 per gravesite (contrasted with the open market price at Beth El of \$2,000 to \$3,500 per site, depending upon site location).

Please note that we are holding this \$1,400 price until September 1, 2010, at which time the cost per gravesite will rise to \$2,000. So as to ensure long-term care and maintenance of each gravesite, it is required that each family purchase "Perpetual Care" directly from the cemetery (approximately \$3,500 to \$4,000 per grave currently).

We encourage you to consider this pre-planning option. Should you have



PHOTOS BY HARVEY BRENNER



questions, need travel directions, want to see the available plot map or wish to purchase a gravesite, please contact Executive Director Harvey M. Brenner at the synagogue office or via email at hbrenner@orzarua.org

Let us hope that it is a very long time until the gravesite is needed, but a bit of pre-planning can help ensure that your wishes are honored and your family and loved ones are spared unnecessary anguish.





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TISHE'AH B'AV SERVICES

Erev Tishe'ah B'Av

Monday, July 19

8:00 p.m. Reading of Eikha

Tishe'ah B'Av

Tuesday, July 20

7:15 a.m. Shaharit

7:30 p.m. Minhah/Ma'ariv

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

JULY/AUGUST 2010

Emergency Defibrillation at Or Zarua

by Laura Resnikoff

Congregation Or Zarua is a large, active community. And, as with any community, sometimes unfortunate events may occur. One of these unfortunate events is a heart attack. In order to deal with heart attacks within our synagogue community, Or Zarua has purchased and installed three automated External Defibrillators (AED) in the building.

The synagogue has also trained eleven members of our community in the use of the AED and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). These trained members are able to deal with situations in which a person is not breathing, is choking or is having a heart attack, and are able to use the AED when necessary. Training was performed by Emergency Skills, Inc. according to standards set by the American Heart Association. Only people specifically trained and certified to

use an AED should administer an AED.

Used in conjunction with CPR, the AED is a small electronic device that first diagnoses arrhythmia and then delivers an electric shock to a heart to stop the arrhythmia and allow the heart the opportunity to start with a normal rhythm. People who employ an AED are trained in both CPR and the use of the AED. Or Zarua has contracted with Emergency Skills, Inc. to provide both training and to make sure that our congregation has complied with all regulations regarding the AED.

The eleven members of our congregation, a mix of congregants and OZ staff, who have been trained to use the AED are: Anthony Banfield, Harvey Brenner, Yael Goren, Jonathan Kaplan, Alan Mayer, Diane Okrent, Jay Palmer, Laura Resnikoff, Gerry Solomon, Charles Spielholz and Miriam Wallerstein. If you are trained and certified to use an AED, please bring it to

the attention of the Or Zarua office so your name may be added to the list.

The three AEDs are located in the vestibules leading to the back stairwells of the synagogue on the social hall, sanctuary and sixth floor levels. The AED on the first and sixth floors also contain special accessories for use on children.

We hope and pray that all of us continue in good health.

Membership Renewal information was mailed the last week of June. If you haven't received your packet, please contact the office for replacement.

High Holy Days begin on Wednesday evening, September 8, 2010 (two days after Labor Day). All dues, fees and guest ticket forms must be received in the office no later than August 13, 2010.